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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Fiji:* draft resolution

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolution 2012/26 of 27 July 2012 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 67/220 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012,

Emphasizing the need for coordinated implementation, coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and noting the key role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in this regard, as set out in paragraph 155 of the Programme of Action,

Recognizing that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity,

Noting that the theme of the 2013 annual ministerial review is "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, in promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment, made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[4] to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

3. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating the effects of such shocks;

4. *Reaffirms* that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services is essential if the least developed countries are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase their resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth and eradicate poverty, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. *Notes* the efforts made by the least developed countries towards full employment and decent work for all and expresses its concern that, despite considerable efforts, those countries are yet to generate a sufficient number of decent jobs for their growing working-age populations, including because of the structural constraints of their economies, and in this regard encourages further action by the least developed countries to strengthen productive capacities, as outlined in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and recalls the commitments made by the development partners in the Programme of Action to provide, inter alia, enhanced financial and technical support to the least developed countries to develop productive capacities, in order to support the efforts of the least developed countries to achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

6. *Recognizes* that least developed countries have made some progress on many of the goals and targets in the Istanbul Programme of Action, leading to structural change in a few of them, expresses its concern that most least developed

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[3] A/68/88-E/2013/81.

[4] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

countries continue to face pervasive poverty, serious structural impediments to growth, low levels of human development and high exposure to shocks and disasters, and also expresses its concern that the deteriorating global economic environment is affecting the least developed countries through declining foreign direct investment and official development assistance flows, therefore putting at risk the hard-won gains achieved so far and the ability to expand those gains to all least developed countries;

7. *Welcomes* the progress in, and stresses the importance of, mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

8. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by implementing enhanced substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries in a timely manner, and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this regard requests them to report to their respective governing bodies on an annual basis;

9. *Underlines* that the official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, and expresses its serious concern that, according to the preliminary estimates of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development for 2012, net bilateral official development assistance to least developed countries has dropped by 12.8 per cent, compared with the 2011 level, and in this regard calls upon the developed countries to reverse the decline in official development assistance to least developed countries and, while acknowledging the fulfilment by some developed countries of official development assistance commitments of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income to least developed countries, urges those that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments of official development assistance to least developed countries, and in this regard also calls upon them to review their official development assistance commitments with a view to further enhancing the resources for least developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

10. *Welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quantity and quality of aid to least developed countries by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results orientation;

11. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities,

(e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (h) good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

12. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

13. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

14. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by various entities of the United Nations system, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

17. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

18. *Recalls* the request made by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013, with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

19. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a proposal outlining the mechanisms for mutual accountability;

20. *Reaffirms* its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

21. *Reiterates* that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development;

22. *Expresses its concern* that, although least developed countries have made some progress in social and human development, many of the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals have yet to be achieved, and calls upon the international community to give special priority to least developed countries in

order to accelerate the progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals in least developed countries by 2015;

23. *Underlines* the need to give appropriate consideration in the post-2015 development agenda to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including those contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through the rapid development of infrastructure and energy, environmentally sound policies to achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth; structural transformation; food security; poverty eradication; and resilience-building and sufficient policy space to pursue the agenda of structural transformation and productive employment;

24. *Takes note* of the biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action undertaken by the relevant United Nations regional commissions in 2013, and invites them to continue to carry out such reviews in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

25. *Notes with appreciation* that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests the relevant United Nations system organizations, in particular the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to extend necessary support in this regard;

26. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to least developed countries carried out within the United Nations system need to be further consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in particular in the context of the increased responsibilities and strengthening of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the imperative need to provide adequate resources and well-coordinated support to realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions in this regard in respect of strengthening the capacity of the Office of the High Representative and to report thereon to the Council at its next session;

27. *Calls upon* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund in support of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2014, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.